MAY 1974

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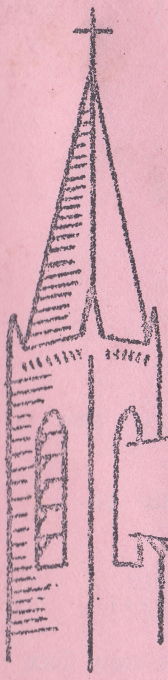

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

There is a simple way of turning £1 into £1.50

(or, for that matter, 10p into 15p)

The name of the game is.....

"COVENANT GIVING"

Unfortunately, at present there are only ..8.. participants in the scheme but many more of you could help.

Furthermore.....

1. It will not cost you any more than you are already giving.
2. You don't have to be rich or generous to take part!!!!
3. You don't have to reveal the innermost secrets of your financial situation!!!!
4. All those households who pay some Income Tax help the church by joining!!!!

There really is no catch in this.

This month, St. Stephen's are having a campaign on Covenant Giving. Our financial situation is so bad that this campaign must succeed..... or else.....?

Please listen carefully to what is said about the scheme and ask questions if you don't understand. If you want the scheme explaining to you personally, just have a word with Ken Hey.

You really can turn £1. into £1.50

The Manse,

May, 1974

My dear friends,

On occasions we use the words "putting two and two together to make four". However poor we may be at arithmetic we are expected to be able to understand this simple formula and come up with the correct answer. Should we, however, still be in doubt we can always find the corresponding number of objects, be they potatoes or eggs or spanners, and demonstrate the whole matter there and then.

Faith in God and in Christ is a relationship of the Spirit. For many people, it never even gets off the ground, being stifled at the very start with no belief in God whatsoever. This is no new thing of course. As far back as the early years of Christianity (and even earlier) this has been so. Faith for some people appears to be a very difficult matter, but Paul, writing to the Christians in Rome, says "Since the beginning of the world the invisible attributes of God - His eternal Power and Divinity have been plain to see through things which He has made and which are commonly seen and known. People know all the time that there is a God yet refuse to acknowledge Him as such or to thank Him for what He is or does".

Putting "two and two together to make four"! Of course it's child's play when dealing with ordinary concrete things, but it's surprising how it defeats so many on the spiritual level.

May god bless you and yours.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

ALL LIFE WOUID BECOME A SIGN

(From "Prayers of Life" by Michael Quoist)

"If we knew how to look at life through God's eyes, we should see it as innumberable tokens of the love of the Creator seeking the love of His creatures. The Father has put us into the world, not to walk through it with lowered eyes, but to search for Him through things, events, people. Everything must feveal God to us".

Thought for the month:

"Live life then with a due sense of responsibilty, not as men who do not know the meaning and purpose of life, but as those who do. Thank God at all times for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

(Letter to the Christians at Ephesus - Chap. 5)

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HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday, March 24th at Littleborough U.R.C.:

CAROL ELIZABETH, daughter of Mr. & Mrs.Armitage, 35, Victoria St., Littleborough.

On Sunday, March 31st at St. Stephen's:

DAVID CHRISTOPHER, son of Mr. & Mr. P. Whitehead, 9, Ladyhouse Close, Milnrow.

++ May God richly bless these little ones ++

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MARRIAGE

On Saturday, 6th April, at Elmwood United Reformed Church, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham.

BEN NUNN, of 37 Wellington Street, Milnrow

to

CAROL A. THOMPSON, of Handsworth Wood, Birmingham.

FESTIVAL OF SPRING - (Held on March 24th) Milnrow

Again we had the gratifying experience both of a full church on a Sunday evening and of a most happy and enjoyable time together.

Mrs. A. Baines and Mrs. Bradbury trained the church children who sang three hymns of spring very well indeed. Members of the Ladies' Guild sang the Introit and the hymn, "I sing the almighty power of God". Mrs. Starkie accompanied on the piano.

The Liturgy for Spring was read by Mrs. Clarence, Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. C. Rothwell, and Mrs. Edelson and Robin Bradbury played a viola and violin duet, including a piece composed especially for the occasion by Mrs. Edelson and entitled "Spring in Milnrow."

A children's choir from Lower Place School, Rochdale - (Prize winners in the recent Rochdale Musical Festival) - also took part, and their singing was greatly appreciated. The children from the School, who were under the musical direction of Mrs. Lunn, also gave instrumental pieces during the service and at the fellowship time afterwards.

The organist was Mr. A. Clegg and Rev. A.Nash conducted the service. Our thanks to all concerned.

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PILOTS ENROLMENT and PROMOTION SERVICE

This was held on Sunday Morning, April 7th. Congratulations to those who have completed their preliminary course and have been enrolled; also to those who have worked successfully to achieve promotion.

If any child would like to join our Pilot Company then come along on Monday at 6.30 p.m. and see Mr. J. Collins.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

The Easter Season was quite a busy one at Milnrow, commencing on the evening of Palm Sunday with a rendering of Stainer's "Crucifixion". This was very well done and thanks are due to all who made it such a successful and enjoyable event. Mrs. A. Baines conducted, and Mr. A. Clegg was at the organ, and the soloists were Mr. T. Ashworth, and Mr. D. Lynch.

Services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were well supported and the play reading on Good Friday evening was very successful. Our thanks to Mrs. Roberts, Mr. J. Emmott, Miss E. Cudworth, Stephen Collins and our minister for their fine performances.

STEPHEN'S STROLLERS

On Easter Monday morning, about 25 "St. Stephen's Strollers" set off for Hollingworth Lake under the capable guidance of 'Captain' Collins.

Several snapshots later, our already straggling company skirted the golf links, exchanging friendly waves with those engaged in the more arduous task of digging over their new gardens.

After negotiating the dizzy heights of Tunshill, stopping occasionally to admire the views, we found a sunny slope overlooking Rakewood Viaduct where we rested our weary legs and enjoyed our packed lunches.

We then proceeded down the valley to the shores of Hollingworth Lake and stopped for further refreshment at an ice cream van.

The more energetic members of the party made their way round to the fair, while the rest were content to walk back to Milnrow at an easy pace, absorbing the fresh air and pleasant sunshine.

FAMILY CHURCH ANNIVERSARY is on:

Sunday MAY 19th at 11.0 am. and 6.0 pm.
Special music at both services.

Rehearsals are now in process and we do invite all who would like to take part to join with us in these.

Will you make sure to book the date of the Anniversary and bring your family and friends along also. A happy time is ensured.

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CALLING ALL KNITTERS

A sponsored 'Knit-In' has been arranged for Tuesday, May 21st from 7.30 pm., in aid of furnishing and decorating the Pennine Room.

You need No. 8 knitting needles, any colour double knitting wool, 32 stitches, and lots of sponsors. The aim is to see how much you can knit in two hours and to ask as many people as possible to sponsor you as much as they like to give per inch.

Umpires will be present with measuring tapes and refreshments will be provided just to give you a piece of encouragement.

If not able to knit, why not be a sponsor? Sponsor forms are available from the Manse, or from Mrs. C. Clough, Mrs. M. Howarth and Mrs. P. Royle.

See you there! off to a good start at 7.30 pm. on Tuesday, MAY 21st.....

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CHURCH BRIGHTENING EFFORT

Our thanks to all who have brought along pot plants for our window boxes in the Church. We still need more, and shall be glad of your help in this way. Lots of you have "green fingers" we feel sure and can help to make these plants look their best at all times.

MORE WOMEN'S GUILD NEWS

At the meeting of the Guild in April, Miss C. Bent of the Family Service Unit in Rochdale was the speaker.

We heard about the different situations of the families who are in the care of the Unit, and of the ways in which they are helped to overcome their problems and make a new start.

*

A coffee evening is planned to take place in May or June (details to be announced) at 9 Bowland Grove, when the proceeds will be given to the Family Service Unit.

*

On the 7th May, Mrs. G. Saunders of Ramsbottom will speak to us about "Life in the Congo."

*

A Date for your Guild Syllabus:

The Social Gathering for the Ladies of the District will take place at Bamford on Thursday, June 13th.

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A NEW VENTURE -"YOUNG MUMS"

All Young Mums are invited to come along on Wednesday afternoons from 2-3 p.m. for a time of fellowship together. A varied programme will be arranged and your children not yet at school will be cared for in a separate room. Make this known,- come yourself and bring a friend.

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THINKING ABOUT OUR FAITH

The next meeting of the Midweek Fellowship will be on Wednesday, May 15th at 7.30 p.m. You are all invited to share in this time of thought and discussion. It is for young and old alike. Do come!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - May 13 - 18th

St. Stephen's require at least 30 collectors to cover the area easily. If you can help, please give your name to Mr. J. Emmott as soon as possible.

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Solution to last month's CROSSWORD

Across

5. Bethlehem
8. Halo
9. Remember
10. Midian
11. Nimbus
13. And - Sin
15. Miriam
16. Eli - Altar
18. Abel
19. Bathsheba

Down

1. Herodias
2. Sharon
3. Hermon
4. Seam
5. Patiently
7. Jerusalem
12. Mary
14. Not - She
15. Martha
17. Adam
18. Abba

Only 2 all correct entries received by closing date. A First Prize has been given to each competitor:
Mrs. M. Howarth & Mr. L. Whittaker.
Congratulations! and good wishes to Leslie for a speedy return to health.

HOW TO BRIGHTEN OUR LOT

Take kindly all that is kindly meant;
Be first to thank, be last to resent.
Give smiles to all who gives smiles to Thee
And those that come frowning feign not to see.
And oh! believe me, this is the plan
To lighten, to brighten the lot of man.
Seem blind when the faults of a friend appear;
Seem deaf when the slanderer's voice you hear;
Seem dumb when the curious crowd you meet
And they bid you the slanderer's tale repeat.
And oh! believe me this is the plan
To lighten, to brighten the lot of man

LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

PALM SUNDAY IN THE PRIMARY

Palm Sunday was a day to remember. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem was enacted no less than four consecutive times by the Primary and Beginners Departments.

The children clamoured for an opportunity to play the major parts in the production, these being: Jesus, the donkey (with ears), the donkey's master (with carrot). The rest of the children waved their branches and sang praises as the procession entered the walls of Jerusalem (the walls being a line of chairs).

Had the bell not been rung for the end of adult service we would probably have had a fifth, sixth, and seventh performance enacted in the prevailing spirit of spontaneous enthusiasm. What a pity the grown ups were not there to see.

GOOD FRIDAY

Members of our church shared in a united service at Victoria St. Methodist Church on Good Friday, when Rev. Dr. Letch led the service and the preacher was Rev. A. Nash. The collection was in aid of the National Children's Home.

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MOORE-ROVER

Rev. Moore was the guest speaker at the March meeting of the Men's Fellowship and he gave a most entertaining talk illustrated by coloured slides. He took his audience on an imaginary trip from Rochdale to Wales, on to London, up to Scotland and down home via the Lake District. (Ah, if only petrol could be so cheap again). Altogether, Rev. Moore gave us a very well produced show and provided for a most enjoyable evening.

JUST A FEW WORDS..... Members of the Lay Preachers Association gave 125 services in 30 churches during the last quarter.

A MISSIONARY DEPUTATION

A visit is expected from a Missionary Deputation consisting of:

Rev. G. HOOD (Overseas Secretary of C.W.M.)
Miss MURIEL HARRISON (Church of S. India)

Miss Harrison will be at Trinity U.R.C., Rochdale, for morning service on Sunday 19th May.

THANKS TO ALL

C.W.M. and Junior Church wish to thank all those who helped them to make £27 in the recent Jumble Sale.

GET YOUR CARDS

Mrs. K. Hill and Mrs. R. Lightfoot are selling Birthday Cards to help to swell Church Funds.

The cards range from 3p to 10p and at that price are very competative. The range covers both sexes and all age groups.

You will be able to purchase these cards after Sunday service and at most church events.

MRS. HILL SAYS THANK YOU

Mrs. M. Hill would like to thank the Ladies for the beautiful flowers given to her on her retirement from the Presidency of the Guild. She would also like to express her gratitude for all the co-operation she has received from the other Guild Officials and members during the last 21 years.

HAPPY NEWS

Did you know that Mr. & Mrs. H. Hill are now Grandparents, and that Mr. Beattie is a Great Grandad?

Congratulations to Janet and Andrew on the birth of their daughter Janine on March 29th.

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

May 5th	Mr. L. Whittaker	Mrs. F. Rae
12th	Mr. A. Bruckshaw	Mrs. A. Baines
19th	Mr. G. Buckley	Mr. A. Rae
26th	Mr. H. Mellor	Mrs. F. Butterworth
June 2nd	Mr. D. Fursey	Mrs. J. Duffy

ELDERS ROTA

EVENING DOOR STEWARDS

May 5th	Miss M. Wood
12th	Mr. J. Wild
19th	Mr. K. Hey
26th	Mrs. N. Settle
June 2nd	Mr. B. Clough

ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP

Mr. D. Logan
Mrs. C. Hey
Mr. A. Clegg
Mrs. E. Starkie
Mr. D. Logan

COMMUNION ROTA

May 5th	Mr. A. Roberts	Mr. J. Emmott
June 2nd	Mr. J. Wild	Mrs. M. Howarth

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

May 5th	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. M. Mellor
12th	Mrs. J. Cudworth	Mrs. N. Settle
19th	Mrs. E. Busill	Miss I. Tither
26th	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith
June 2nd	Miss M. Wood	Miss A. Clegg

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

OFFERTORIES

	Cash			
	am.	pm.	Envelopes	Total
March 3rd	4.23½	1.29	11.50½	17.03
10th	4.51	1.87	12.88	19.26
17th	4.54	1.87½	13.78½	20.20
24th	4.98	10.04	16.26	31.28
31st	5.98		17.27	23.25
	£24.24½	£15.07½	£71.70	£111.02

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

May 5th	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. H.N. Hill	
12th	Mr. F. Beattie	Mrs. Crossley	am.
	Mr. E. Holt	Mrs. Stott	pm.
19th	Mr. J. Holt	Mr. F. Ingham	
26th	Mr. J. Nairn	Mr. J. Hill	
June 2nd	Mrs. Stott	Mr. F. Ingham	

COMMUNION

May 12th	Mr. Nairn	Mr. Beattie	
26th	Mr. Simpson	Mr. Ingham	am.

COFFEE

May 5th	J. Allsion	D. Mallinson
12th	E. Hill	J. Law
19th	J. Simpson	L. Kelsall
26th	W. Spinks	L. Butterworth
June 2nd	J. Hobbs	S. Moss

ORGANIST/PIANIST

May 5th	Mrs. M. Hill	
12th	Lindsay Merrick	am.
	Mrs. M. Hill	pm.
19th	Lindsay Merrick	
26th	Mrs. Cockcroft	

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

FAMILY READINGS

May 5th	Psalm 150	S. Moss
12th	Luke 24: 36 - 49	J. Greenwood
19th	Matthew 25:31 - 46	P. Lightfoot
26th	Psalm 148	M. Law
June 2nd		M. Grindrod

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

May

Wed.	1st	2.00 pm.	Young Mums Group (and each Wednesday)
Sun.	5th	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash (Receipt of C.W.M. Boxes
		6.00 pm.	" (Service of Word and Sacrament)
Mon.	6th	6.30 pm.	Pilots - and each Monday
Tues.	7th	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild: Mrs. Saunders
Wed.	8th	7.30 pm.	Elders Meeting
Sun.	12th	11.00 am.	
		6.00 pm.	
Mon.	13th		Christian Aid Week 13th - 18th
		7.30 pm.	Meeting of Elders and Church Visitors
Wed.	15th	7.30 pm.	Mid-week Fellowship
Sun.	19th		FAMILY CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
		11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash B.A.
		6.00 pm.	"
Tues	21st	7.30 pm.	Sponsored knit
Sun.	26th	11.00 am.	Mrs. M. Nash
		6.00 pm.	Rev. A. Nash B.A.
Wed.	29th	8.00 pm.	Church Meeting
Thur.	30th	7.30 pm.	Junior Church Staff Meeting at the Manse

June

Sun.	2nd	11.00 am.	Rev. A. Nash B.A.
		6.00 pm.	Service of Word & Sacrament

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

May	5th	Mrs. E. Gowdrige	
	12th	Mrs. E. Prince	Mrs. E. Starkie
	19th	Mrs. F. Rae	Mrs. D. Chadwick
	26th	Mrs. E. Busill	Mrs. L Lord
June	2nd	Mrs. B. Webber	

LITTLEBOROUGH - DIARY

May

Wed.	1st	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	5th	10.30 am.	Mr. J. Lord
Tues.	7th	7.30 pm.	Junior Church Staff Meeting
Wed.	8th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	12th	10.30 am.	Rev. A. Nash
		6.00 pm.	" Communion
Tues.	14th	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild Tete a Tete..10p (with coffee) at Mrs. Law's 52 Petts Crescent, off Whitelees Rd.
Wed.	15th	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Sun.	19th	10.30 am.	Mrs. Nash
Tues.	21st	7.30 pm.	Women's Guild - Birthday Supper
Wed.	22nd	6.45 pm.	Pilots
Thur.	23rd	7.30 pm.	Men's Fellowship A.G.M.
Sun.	26th	10.30 am.	Rev. A. Nash (Communion)
Tues.	28th	7.00 pm.	Elders Meeting
		7.30 pm.	Church Meeting
Wed.	29th	6.45 pm.	Pilots

June

Sun. 2nd — WHIT SUNDAY

10.30 am. Joint Service at U.R.C. with Victoria St. Methodists
Preacher: Dr. Letch

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

May	5th	Mrs. R. Holt
	12th	Mrs. Jowett
	19th	Mrs. Arthur
	26th	Mrs. Macaulay
June	2nd	Mrs. Stott

OFFERTORIES

	Cash	Envelopes
February	£6.41½	£31.00½
March	£16.02½	£47.85½

MINISTER:

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The Manse,
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*

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*

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*

HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW: Miss M. Wood
Mrs. A. Wood
Mrs. E. Starkie
Miss A. Memory
Mrs. N. Settle

*